

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 40-57 and 77-91 are pending. Claims 40-57 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 77-91 stand rejected. Claims 78-80, 82-85, and 87-90 have been amended. No new matter has been added with the amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 77-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. No. US 2002/0107591 (*Gabia, et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,760,560 (*Ohyia et al.*). Applicant respectfully disagrees that the art is unpatentable over the cited art.

The *Gabia* reference teaches an improved apparatus and method for controlling toys by means of a television or a radio (*Gabia*, page 1, paragraph 0015). The described system includes a controllable toy and an audio entertainment signal analyzer (*Gabia*, page 1, paragraph 0016). The described audio entertainment signal analyzer is operative to analyze an audio entertainment signal to recognize predetermined audio entertainment elements (*Gabia*, page 1, paragraph 0016). The described audio entertainment signal analyzer is operative to command the controllable toy to perform at least one action according to the predetermined audio entertainment element at a time corresponding to a time the audio entertainment elements are played by a household audio entertainment player (*Gabia*, page 1, paragraph 0016).

The *Ohyia* reference teaches a robot apparatus that is composed of a robot and a controller, and that does not need a connection cable to connect the robot and the controller (*Ohyia*, column 2, lines 4-6, 46). The described controller is composed of a control unit, an operation box, and a teaching pendant (*Ohyia*, column 2, lines 47-48). The *Ohyia* reference teaches that since the operation box and the teaching pendant of the controller cannot be inside the safety fence for the safety of operators, they are separated from the control unit and disposed outside of the safety fence (*Ohyia*, column 2, lines 21-25). The described operation box includes

a power supply turning ON switch, a power supply turning OFF switch for controlling the power supply of the controller, and an emergency stop button (*Ohya*, column 3, lines 35-41). The *Ohya* reference teaches that the power supply ON switch, the power supply OFF switch, and the emergency stop button are connected to the ON/OFF control and emergency stop circuit of the control circuit and can be remote controlled from outside the safety fence (*Ohya*, column 2, lines 46-52).

Claim 77 recites “commencing the robot competition.” Claim 77 also recites “providing a remote disabling mechanism for the robot competition, the remote disabling mechanism operable to selectively disable a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the plurality of robots.” The *Gabia* reference teaches controlling toys with a television, a radio, or a computer. The *Gabia* reference does not teach commencing a robot competition. Applicant also agrees with the Examiner that the *Gabia* reference does not teach a remote disabling mechanism operable to selectively disable a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the robots.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the *Ohya* reference does not teach commencing a robot competition. Instead the *Ohya* reference teaches a robot apparatus that does not need a connection cable to connect a robot to a controller. In addition, the *Ohya* reference does not teach a remote disabling mechanism is operable to selectively disable a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the robots. Instead, the *Ohya* reference teaches positioning, for the safety of operators, an operation box that includes an on/off switch and an emergency stop outside a safety fence. Accordingly, claim 77 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited art.

Independent claims 82 and 87 recite limitations similar to that of claim 77. In particular, claim 82 recites a remote disabling mechanism operable to disable a plurality of robots independent of persons operating the plurality of robots. Claim 87 recites a first device operable to selectively disable a robot independent of a person operating a robot, where a first device is located remotely from a robot. Accordingly, for reasons stated above in connection with claim 77, claims 82 and 87 and their respective dependent claims allowable over the cited art.

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Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner's rejection of claims 77-91 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time with the required \$510 filing fee is being filed concurrently with this Amendment in Reply to an Action of March 28, 2006. If any additional extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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